

Howland Wood - Curatorial

Hume, Edgar Erskine
[Washington, D.C.]

1926-1937

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL,
ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY,
WASHINGTON.

April 27, 1926.

American Society of Numismatics,
Broadway & 156th Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sirs:

I understand that you have in your collection
a cross of the Order of Virtuti Militari of Poland, a
cross which was made in the last years of the 18th century at
the time of one of the Polish revolutions. This order has
of course been revived and the new crosses now manufactured
I think differ in some respects from the old ones. If you
have such a cross would it be possible for you to let me have
a photograph of the obverse and reverse in the size of the
original? I will be glad to remit whatever charges there may
be for this photograph.

Hoping that you may accommodate me in this, I am

Very truly yours,

Edgar Erskine Hume
Majr M.C.
U.S. Army

April 29th, 1926

Major Edgar Erskine Hume, M.C.
Office of the Surgeon General
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your favour of April 27th,
the Society has in its collection only a small
silver Militari Virtuti medal of Poland of the
period of 1831, but I have taken pleasure in writ-
ing to a collector whom, I believe, has a few others,
to find out if he would be willing to lend them to
us for photographic purposes. If this can be done,
I shall be glad to forward you prints as requested.
There appears to be a number of varieties of this
Decoration.

Very truly yours,

Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL,
ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY,
WASHINGTON.

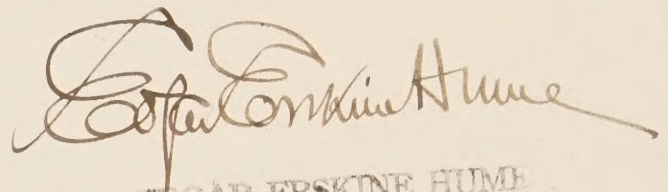
May 1, 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Streets,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 29th
and for your good offices in securing a photograph of the
decoration of the Order of Virtute Militari of Poland.
I trust that you will be successful in this as I am most an-
xious to have a photograph of this cross.

Very sincerely yours,



EDGAR ERSKINE HUME
Major, Medical Corps

Sent
at class 5/20/26
Rush

May 14th, 1926

Major Edgar Erskine Hume, MD
Office of the Surgeon-General
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Referring again to your letter with regard to the Polish decoration, I photographed yesterday two obverses and two reverses of two varieties of the Virtuti Militari Order of Poland, and will have prints of same sent to you early next week.

Very truly yours,

Curator

May 20th, 1926

Major Edgar Erskine Hume, M.C.
Office of the Surgeon General
War Dept. Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I am sending, under separate cover,
photographs of the obverse and reverse of the
Order of Virtuti Militari of Poland - one of
the eighteenth century and one of the nineteenth
century.

I trust that the delay has not inconvenienced you, but I had to wait some time in order to secure the other specimen; also, our Photographer caused further delay.

Very truly yours,

Enc.

Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE SURGEON GENERAL,
ARMY MEDICAL MUSEUM AND LIBRARY,
WASHINGTON.

June 23, 1926.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Streets,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

I am greatly obliged to you for sending me the
photographs of the Order of Virtuti Militari of Poland.
Your trouble in obtaining the originals and the authority
to make the photographs is very much appreciated.

The Aztec Club of 1847 has struck a medal commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the founding of the Club and at the last annual meeting, at which time I resigned as secretary, I obtained the club's permission to present one copy of the medal to the Numismatic Society. I am sure that you already have the medal struck in 1897 commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Club.

Very sincerely yours,

Edgar Ernest Hume

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CORPS AREA

ARMY BASE, BOSTON, MASS.

Room 258, State House,
Boston, Mass., January 31 1936.

IN REPLY
REFER TO

Mr. Howland Wood,
c/o The American Numismatic Society,
156th Street and Broadway,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

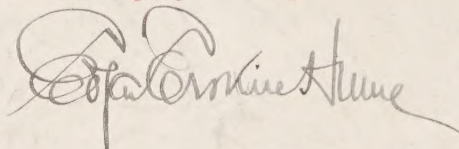
The Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Virginia, of which I am President, plans to strike a commemorative medal for the 150th anniversary of the Yorktown Victory and distribute it to the members and a limited list of officials of our own and other governments that will attend. I do not know the usage in such matters, but it seems to me that it would be very desirable to have a little certificate go with each of the medals. This would show the name of the recipient. Would you mind telling me what you think of the idea, and whether it is usual to do this? I have already obtained the Society's authority to present one of the medals to the American Numismatic Society.

We have not decided on the design as yet. The obverse will probably bear the Eagle with suitable wording, the reverse to show a background of Yorktown with plaques at each side. On the one the profiles of Washington and Lafayette. On the other Rochambeau and de Grasse. I expect to go to Paris this summer and will attend to the striking of the medals there.

I hope that I am not putting you to too much trouble in asking for this advice. I go even farther for I have another request. Can you give me a list of the medals that were struck by the Jacobite "pretenders" to the Scottish throne in 1715 and 1745? James III and Prince Charles Edward both had a fondness for medals and a number of them were struck. I am hoping that I can obtain replicas of some of them from the British Museum.

Thanking you in advance and again expressing appreciation for assistance that you have given me in the past. I shall always remember a visit to the Museum last year when you were good enough to show me about even though the building was officially closed.

Sincerely yours,



Colonel Edgar Erskine Hume

several of Prince James. 1697
several medals of James III & Princess Clementine

1719

Bust of Prince Charles. 1740 2 medals.
James III 1721

Medallic Illustrations of the History of
Great Britain & Ireland

to the
History of Great Britain & Ireland by Edward Hawkins
2 vol. British Museum. 1885

Vol XVIII

Br num Journal for 1923-4
Num Chronicle for 1839 1840 1841 1847

Feb/5, 1931

Colonel Edgar Erskine Hume
Room 258, State House
Boston, Mass.

Dear Colonel Hume:

Responding to your letter of the 31st, although I have never heard of a little certificate being given out with each medal, with the name of the recipient inscribed, I think the idea a good one. Oftentimes a little two or four-page paper or card accompanies such a medal describing the significance of the design, and giving the name of the artist, as well as the reason for the medal having been struck. I am enclosing a card of this order that came in the box containing the medal. Unfortunately I cannot find any other available cards.

I think if you could embody both ideas it would be very much to the point - that is, a medal commemorating such and such an event is herewith presented to Mr. So-and-So, and then on the other pages a description of the why and wherefore of the medal; the size of this little document to fit in the cover of the box.

Mr. Henry Russell Drowne (306 West 78th Street, New York City), of the Order of the Cincinnati, has had some experience in getting out medals, and possibly he could give you good advice.

There are a number of medals of the "pretenders" scattered through several books, but I think the best plan would be to give you the references. In "Medallic Illustrations of the History of Great Britain and Ireland" by Edward Hawkins, 2 volumes, British Museum 1885, there are a number which can be traced through the index. In the British Numismatic Journal, volume No. XVII, for 1923-24, is an account of some of these. Also, in the Numismatic Chronicles for the years 1839-40-41-47, are other accounts. All of these books are in the Boston Public Library.

Do not hesitate to call on me again if you wish further information.

Very sincerely yours,

Curator.

*In reply refer to
Subject No.*

ALL COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO THE ADJUTANT GENERAL.



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE

Room 258, STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

February 16 1931.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator of the American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Street,
New York City.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am greatly obliged to you for your opinion of my idea of having a little certificate to accompany the medal the Virginia Cincinnati propose striking to commemorate the Yorktown celebration.

I thank you also for the references to the Jacobite medals. I have found the works that you mentioned in the Boston Public Library and am going to try to obtain from the British Museum some casts of the medals themselves, in as far as they have them.

I had a request from the Secretary of the Congressional Committee on the Yorktown Celebration (Hon. S.O. Bland) for information that they need in connection with the medal that they propose striking. I told him that you might be able to help him. I trust that you will not object to this suggestion on my part. When one thinks of some of the terrible things that have been concocted in the medal line by our government, a chance to give good advice is worth while.

Thanking you again, and with best personal regards,
I am,

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Erskine Hume

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

July 22, 1933.

Mr. Sydney P. Noe, Secretary,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N.Y.

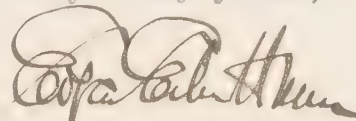
Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of July 11th, together with the interesting monograph of Mr. Gillingham's on South American decorations, and I thank you greatly for them both. The paper that I have in mind will not be anything like as exhaustive as Mr. Gillingham's, but will include not only South American but also the decorations of Central America and the West Indies. I am at work on this material, using all available sources, but if I find them inadequate I will take advantage of your kind offer and appeal to you for further assistance.

I also had a letter from Mr. Gillingham with many valuable suggestions. There is one Mexican medal not given by Mr. Gillingham and a copy of which I understand the Numismatic Society purchased a few years ago from Major Otto Holstein. This is a medal, or possibly a cross, created by the Mexican Government to commemorate the battle of Angostura, which is the engagement which we know as the Battle of Buena Vista. Included in the design of this cross were the crossed flags of the United States upside down to indicate American defeat. If you could let me have a description or lend me a photograph of this decoration, I would be very much obliged and would return it promptly. In return I would be glad to give you prints of certain photographs that I received from Central American diplomatic representatives some of which may be unknown to you. For example, I have an excellent print of the somewhat rare cross created by Costa Rica in 1858 for recognition of special services against Walker's filibusters.

Thanking you again, I am,

Very truly yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, Med. Corps, U.S. Army,
Librarian.

July 31, 1933.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Medical Corps, U. S. Army
Army Medical Library
7th and B. Streets SW.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

By this time you have received the copies of South American Decorations that we issued a short while ago. I will photograph for you the Mexican medal of Angostura. We have a lot of photographing to do right now and I will work this in at the first opportunity. We are always glad to receive photographs of medals we do not have. We appreciate your kindness in furnishing us with copies of these.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

August 1, 1933.

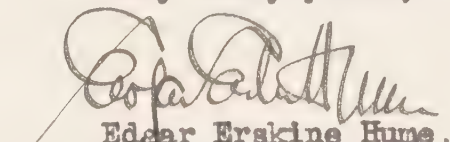
Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you very much for your letter of July 31st kindly referring to sending me the photograph of your Mexican medal of Angostura. There is no great rush about this, and I will be glad to have it when you have time.

I am inclosing herewith a copy of the decree of the Government of Costa Rica, creating a service cross for military duty against Walker and his filibusters in the 50's. I am also having a copy made for you of the recent decree of the Mexican Government instituting the Order of the Aztec Eagle. You may already have both of these in your files, but it is my experience that it is exceedingly difficult to obtain such documents from Latin American countries. The copy I send you, you will observe is certified by the Legation. I also have a drawing of this cross made by the present Charge d'Affaires of Costa Rica, who has made an excellent job of it. As soon as I can have it photographed the copy will follow.

Very truly yours,


Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, M.C., U.S.A.

Incls.

August 4, 1933.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Medical Corps, U. S. Army
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have just photographed the
angostura medal but it is to my mind
very unsatisfactory. If it will answer
your purpose well and good, but I doubt
it. If you wish I will re-photograph
it on a white background the next time
we do some work.

Very truly yours,

Hd:JC

Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1933.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you for your letter of August 4th and for the photograph of the Angostura medal. I have shown it to the man who makes our cuts, and he tells me that on account of the lack of contrast it will not show up well. There appears to be a wreath of laurel leaves outside of the cross, which I expect would be lost in reproduction. I do not wish to be such a great bother to you, but if I could have a photograph on a white background I would appreciate it greatly. I would like also if I could, to have a statement as to the colors of the enameled and of the ribbon.

I find that the subject of Mexican war medals for service against the United States is somewhat confused, and I suppose that I am in great danger of omitting some of them. However, I hope for good luck.

I am arranging to send you copies of all the photographs that I can. I hope you received the photostat of the decree of the Costa Rican Government respecting the cross for service against Walker's filibusters.

Very truly yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, Med. Corps, U.S.A.,
Librarian, Army Medical Library.

August 9, 1933.

Major Edgar E. Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Sts. S. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I will have photographed for you
the Angostura medal on a white background
and will give you a description then of the
coloring of the medal and ribbon.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

TELEPHONE
AUDUBON 2484



MUSEUM OPEN
10 - 5, WEEK-DAYS
1 - 5, SUNDAYS

LIBRARY OPEN
10 - 5, WEEK-DAYS

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY, BETWEEN 155TH
AND 156TH STREETS
NEW YORK

~~Referring to the Mexican flag~~
all medals are gold (or silver). The centre
of the Cross is a superimposed square with a
shrunken field of
transparent red enamel on which is the
Mexican eagle, with a laurel and
palm branch and two Mexican states flags pointing
downwards, the steps appearing in the upper
angles of the cross, although they are not in
gold alignment. The cross, its superimposed
square and the bar are of white enamel
etched with gold. Inscription on cross: "AL VA
LOR Y SUFRI MIENTO", on the square: "DEL EJERCITO
DEL NORTE" with a small star in each corner.
On the bar: "ANGOSTURA 22 Y 23 FEBRERO DE 1847"

August 14, 1933.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We are enclosing herewith two new photographs of the Angostura badge, the description of which is as follows:

All metal parts are gold (or gilded); in the centre of the Cross is a superimposed square with a sunken field of translucent red enamel on which is the Mexican eagle, gilded. Under the laurel and palmetto are two United States flags pointing downwards, the staffs appearing in the upper angles of the cross, although they are not in good alignment. The cross, its superimposed square and the bar are of white enamel edged with gold. Inscription on cross: "AL VALOR Y SUFRI MIENTO", on the square: "DEL EJERCITO DEL NOROCCIDENTE" with a small star in each corner. On the bar: "ANGOSTURA 22 Y 23 FEBRERO DE 1847".

The reverse of the badge has a square superimposed on the cross with the inscription, somewhat worn, in four lines: "AL MANDO DEL GENERAL SANTA-ANITA" with an ornament underneath. All lettering is done in black.

In the attached small envelope you will find a very small piece of the ribbon, which will show the colors.

Very truly yours,

RR:JG

Assistant Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

August 21, 1933.

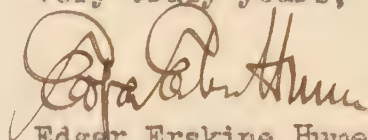
Mr. Robert Robertson, Assistant Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much indeed for the excellent photograph of the Mexican medal for Angostura, also for the sample of the ribbon.

I have just received a copy of the Brazilian decree reviving the Order of the Southern Cross. This is dated in April of this year, and if you have not a copy of it I will be glad to have one made for you. My copy is in type script.

Very truly yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, Med. Corps, U.S. Army,
Librarian.

August 22, 1933.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your letter mentioning the Brazilian decree reviving the Order of the Southern Cross has just been received. We have never received any literature concerning this Order dated in April and would greatly appreciate it if you would be kind enough to send us a copy.

Very truly yours,

RR:JG

Assistant Curator

August 28, 1933.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We wish to thank you most kindly for sending us a copy of the decree re-viving the Order of the Southern Cross of Brazil. It will not be necessary for us to have a copy of the original as this translation will meet our needs.

Through the courtesy of our librarian, Mr. Sydney P. Noe, under separate cover we are sending you on inter-library loan the four books which you mentioned you should like to borrow. The book by Alejandro Rosam which we are sending you is dated 1891, which you no doubt listed in error as 1898. We have no book by this author dated 1898.

Very truly yours,

RR:JG

Assistant Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

Nov. 9, 1933.

Mr. Sydney P. Noe,
Secretary of the American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Noe:


Referring to our previous correspondence on the subject of the war medals of our late enemies, I have been promised two Austrian medals, one for service between the outbreak of the war and the death of the Emperor Francis Joseph, the other being for service after that Emperor's death. The first can be purchased in Vienna, and I have already ordered it. The second can be acquired only through the Government, and I have started steps in that direction. I have nothing further to report about the others, though I am working on them.

The inclosed Bulletin for subscription for the proposed Charcot medal, tells its own story. I am a member of the French Geographical Society, but do not care to acquire one of the Charcot medals for myself. If, however, you would like me to order one for the Numismatic Society, please let me know and I will send the necessary subscription. You will note that the medal may be ordered in bronze or in silver, as you prefer.

I returned some of the books that you kindly loaned me, and am still working on the others and hope to finish with them and send them back to you shortly.

I wrote the paper of which we spoke, on George Washington's Diamond Eagle of the Cincinnati, and it will appear in the December issue of The Numismatist. The other paper on the Cincinnati medals is being prepared, and I suppose will appear a few month's later.

Sincerely yours,


Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, M.C., U.S.A.

Incl.

MEDAILLE du D^R JEAN CHARCOT

BULLETIN DE SOUSCRIPTION



Je soussigné, M.....

déclare souscrire la somme de ⁽¹⁾.....

Le

Signature et adresse :

Prière d'envoyer ce bulletin en y joignant le montant de la souscription, en chèque ou mandat-poste, à M. Xavier SCHELCHER, Agent de change, Trésorier du Comité, 1 bis, Boulevard des Italiens, PARIS (2^e). Chèques postaux 869.39.

(1) Tout souscripteur d'au moins 250 francs recevra un exemplaire en argent et tout souscripteur d'au moins 100 francs recevra un exemplaire en bronze.

SOCIÉTÉ DE GÉOGRAPHIE

10. AVENUE D'IÉNA, 10

PARIS (XVI^e)

Paris, Octobre 1933.

MÉDAILLE du D^R JEAN CHARCOT

Monsieur,

Les amis du D^R JEAN CHARCOT, unis dans un sentiment de reconnaissance et d'admiration pour son œuvre nationale et scientifique, ont décidé de lui remettre une médaille, dont l'éminent graveur M. A. RICHER, de l'Académie des Beaux-Arts, a bien voulu se charger. A cette occasion une réception aura lieu à la Société de Géographie.

Certain que l'hommage rendu au grand explorateur polaire français, rencontrera votre sympathie, le Comité vous prie de vous y associer en voulant bien remplir le bulletin de souscription ci-contre.

Le Maréchal FRANCHET D'ESPÈREY
PRÉSIDENT,

M. le Professeur Jean-Louis FAURE,
de l'Académie de Médecine.

M. Guillaume GRANDIDIER,
Secrétaire Général de la Société de Géographie.

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Bibliothécaire de la Société de Géographie.
SECRÉTAIRE.

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Trésorier du Yacht Club de France.
TRÉSORIER.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

November 17, 1933.

Mr. Sydney Noe, Secretary,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Noe:

Mr. Henry R. Drowne writes me that there is in the collections of the Numismatic Society, one of the Cincinnati medals made by Victor D. Brenner the medalist, following the L'Enfant design of 1783. I wonder if it would be possible to have a photograph of this medal to include in the paper that I am now writing for the Numismatist on the subject of the Medals of the Society of the Cincinnati. This same design was used in 1914 by the Maryland Society of the Cincinnati on the occasion of the Triennial Meeting, but Mr. Drowne says that there were a number of important differences between Brenner's piece and the one struck in Baltimore.

Faithfully yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, U.S. Army.

*Have you the book a Lafayette medals published by the
Industrious American Society of Washington. I can get the full
title if you wish*

November 20, 1935.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Hume:

We have no record of any medal that Victor E. Brenner made for the Order of the Cincinnati. We presume you mean one of the badges to be worn. We have one on exhibition labelled "American, made since 1902". This looks almost identical with the illustration given in a book of their productions by Bailey, Banks and Biddle. We are photographing this anyway and will send you a print. If this is not it let us know just what it is that you want.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

November 24, 1933.

Major Edgard Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Hume:

I am herewith enclosing a couple of poor prints of the Order of the Cincinnati which is the one I suppose you want. It was a dark day when we photographed and the results are not good. If this is for reproduction let me know and I will photograph the badge again.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

February 7, 1934.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW
Washington, D. C. .

Dear Major Hume:

I have probably located some of the medals that you wanted some time ago. I am enclosing a rubbing of two medals. If you still want a photograph of one let us know, also let us know if you want one or both.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator



THE SOCIETY OF THE CINCINNATI

MAJOR EDGAR ERSKINE HUME, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL

SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE, WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 8, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York.

Dear Mr. Wood:

I am delighted to have your letter of yesterday and to know that you have located the two Cincinnati medals. The smaller one is the medal of which I have no photograph for the paper on Cincinnati Medals and if you could let me have one (both sides) I would be glad indeed and would rush it to Mr. Buffield for inclusion in the paper, which is to begin in the March issue and run for two numbers. This medal should be in the first installment, so that time is indeed short. I am returning the rubbings so that you may be sure which medal I need.

I had more difficulty in getting together the data for the article on the Cincinnati medals. One of the medals was very rare (there is but one copy of one of them) and people usually do not take much trouble to find it. I was very lucky with some help, for I had not a little about the Society of the Cincinnati, I am the veriest amateur in matters numismatic.

I am now collecting photos of Eagles and hope that I may get Mr. Willey to turn out the monograph on them upon which he has been working for so many years. Later on I hope that you will allow me to send you the photos and ask your help in identifying some of them. I have a series of photos given me by the late Judge Webb, but he had not labeled them and I am put to it to know which is which.

Edgar Erskine Hume



← Photo of
this might
needed

February 9, 1934.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Surgeon General's Office
War Department, Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Hume:

Your letter received and
I am sending the medal on to Duffield to
photograph as he may need it before we
can photograph as I doubt if we do any
photographing under two weeks.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

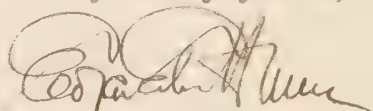
March 5, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, between 155th and 156th Streets,
New York City.

Dear Sir:

Under separate cover, and by first-class registered mail, I am sending you the two Cincinnati medals from the die made by the late Mr. Victor C. Brenner, which you sent to Mr. Duffield at my suggestion. We had photographs made and they will appear in connection with my article in the Numismatist. I find that the illustration will be in Part 2 and not Part 1.

Very truly yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, U.S. Army.

March 7, 1934.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Hume:

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the two Cincinnati medals that arrived yesterday. I note your account beginning in the March Naturalist but as yet have not had a chance to read it. I will do this at the first opportunity.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

April 4, 1934.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th & B Streets SW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Hume:

I was sorry to miss you
the other day when you were up here but
I trust Mr. Robertson attended to you
all right. I am sending herewith photo-
graphs of the Order of the Cincinnati
showing the crepe fastened to the ribbon.
Please accept this with our compliments.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

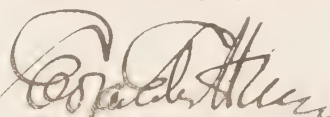
Thank you very much for sending me the excellent photographs of the Eagle of the Cincinnati with the crepe attached. I will take pleasure in placing it in our files. Mr. Robertson was most good at the time of my visit, and did everything that could have been done. I was sorry, however, to miss you, and will hope for better fortune when I am next in the city.

I understood from Mr. Robertson that you have no good photograph in your files of General Washington's Diamond Eagle of the Cincinnati, so I inclose copies of the obverse and reverse herewith, and would be glad if you would accept them with my compliments.

The second installment of my paper on the Cincinnati medals is in the April issue of the Numismatist, and as soon as reprints are struck off will send you several.

With best regards, I am,

Faithfully yours,


Edgar Erskine Hume.

Incls.

April 11, 1934.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets SW
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Hume:

I beg to thank you for the
photograph of obverse and reverse of
Washington's Diamond Eagle of the Cincinnati.
I am very glad to have this as we have one
or two photographs of other eagles.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

July 12, 1934.

Mr Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society
155th St and Broadway,
New York City

Dear Mr. Wood:

Sometime ago I bespoken your assistance in a matter relating to the Eagle of the Society of the Cincinnati, and will annoy you further if you do not object to stragously.

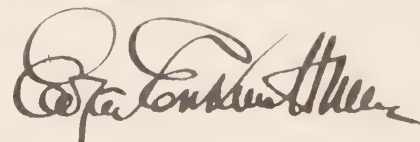
As you know the original dies, if any, of the Eagles of the Cincinnati from which these emblems were made in 1783-4 under direction of Major L'Enfant are lost. From time to time other dies have been cut and Eagles have been made in a variety of ways. These differed so greatly in form and general appearance that the Society sought to adopt a standard pattern. Even this was not easy, and to make a long story short, the die that was made has often been criticized as being different from the original in many respects.

Under separate cover I am sending you one of these gold Eagles made from the new die. It is supposed to be a replica of the L'Enfant Eagle such as the one in your collection. I want to ask as a great favor that you compare this reproduction with the original and give me a statement as to the points of similarity or variance, i.e. in appearance, color, weight, size, etc. Upon your opinion as an expert I shall base my report to the General Society and possibly this will determine whether we retain the present die, have it modified, or order an entirely new one cut. I trust that I am not asking too much of you, and the Society will be most grateful for your assistance.

Have you copies of (1) The Hoff Memorial Gold Medal, awarded annually at the Army Medical School here for highest class standing, and (2) The Sir Henry Wellcome Medal in gold, awarded annually for the best essay or piece of research in the field of military medicine. The former is struck at the U.S. mint and the latter at the British mint. I have both and would be glad to place them with you later as a loan if you wish. I find a gold medal in private hands something of a white elephant.

With best regards, and thanks, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume
Major, M.C., U.S. Army
(Asst. Secty Gen., Society of the
Cincinnati).

July 18th, 1934

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Surgeon General's Office
War Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Major Hume:

Your modern facsimile of the Order of the Cincinnati at hand and I have studied it in detail with our own original piece. It is a fairly close copy of the original but one is an 18th Century work and the other a 20th Century. This, perhaps, cannot be helped; and, in one sense, I think it proper because originals ought to be told apart without any great doubt.

I am enclosing in the box with the piece you sent on, plaster casts of the obverse and reverse of ours; and, although they are not very good, they will show you the relief and the modelling. With these and the photograph we sent you awhile ago, you should get a pretty good idea of the minor differences.

These are the things that I have noted - the coil ring or the ribbon on the original is much longer, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm.

The wreath around the eagle's head is broader and the red berries stand out more. In other words, the new piece does not have quite as many red berries.

On the original, the eagle's neck is not quite as long and it has a slightly larger crest at the back of the head. The chief difference between the two, is that the feathers in the neck and tail on both sides are delineated in black enamelled painted lines on the white, while the new piece is in gold. This is one of the differences between the 18th and 20th Century work. It would be probably very difficult and more expensive to paint them in in black.

On the original, the red eye is a trifle larger; and the black enamelled beak is not quite as pronounced.

Also, there is a space between the enamelled wreath and the top of the wings, which is cut out on the old but not on the new. The wings are fairly close but there is not the modelling on the new that there is on the old. The wings on the original are apparently less thick through the middle. (The plaster cast will show you this modelling).

The cutting out around the legs and the bottom sprigs are slightly different.

The shape of the tail also appears different. On the original it seems to be shorter and flares out a trifle more. As I said before, the feathers are indicated in black enamel.

The old medallion on the original stands out more in the background than on the new piece; and it looks to me as if it were a trifle more round.

July 18, 1934

Page 2

The lettering on the old piece is black on white enamel; and on the new, gold metal is ~~showing~~ showing through. On the photograph, you will see that the style of lettering is quite different. Also, the reading on the inscription is entirely different. Our specimen reads: OMNIA RELINOT SERVAT REMPB. This probably was changed purposely. The diamond on your piece given to George Washington has about the same wording as ours. Naturally, this wording might vary slightly as they were put on by hand. The figures in the centre are very close.

About all the remarks that I have given you apply to the Reverse. The figures on the Reverse medallion are wholly in gold on our specimen and appear to be gold and silver on yours.

The size of the two badges is almost identical. Yours is a trifle heavier and it is a little thicker - especially in the wings.

We have a framed photograph here of an eagle in the State of Georgia evidently given out by Thomas Savage Clay, Assistant-Treasurer, 107 Wall Street, New York, with the notation on it: "The eagle from which this picture was made was presented to Major John Berrien, Secretary of the Society of the Cincinnati in the State of Georgia, by George Washington."

This badge varies in a great many ways from any other that I have seen.

The wreath is entirely different.

The medallion in the centre seems to be in gold and not enamel, but the inscription is nearly the same as on the modern pieces.

In conclusion, I would say that I think it would be possible to make a closer reproduction. It might, however, be more expensive to outline the feathers and put in the lettering in black enamel - as, presumably, this is hand-work and I doubt if today many people could be found who could do this.

We do not have here the Hoff Memorial gold medal nor the Sir Henry Wellcome medal. We would accept them as loan to help you out but we are not anxious to acquire any more loan stuff than we can help as it simply adds to our responsibility, especially as we are not now exhibiting much of anything in gold.

I beg to remain,
Sincerely yours,

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

August 8, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood,
Curator, American Numismatic Society,
Broadway, bet. 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

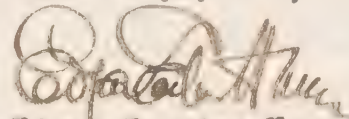
Your very kind letter with account of the comparison of the replica of the Cincinnati Eagle and the original, reached me in Kentucky, but as I was on the move this is the first opportunity that I have had to reply. I have sent copies of the letter to our General Officers, all of whom are much interested, and I think we will forward your suggestion and have a new die made.

I am obliged also for the plaster casts of the original Eagle and am holding these until our Treasurer General returns from his vacation in Bermuda, as he is especially interested in having a better die made.

Regarding the two gold medals, I will not burden you with them as I did not realize that they would be a problem to you, but on second thought can easily understand how this would be.

With cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,


Edgar Erskine Hume.

December 10, 1934.

Major Edgar Erskine Hume
Army Medical Library
7th and B Streets
Washington, D. C.

Dear Major Hume:

A Mr. B. F. Borhek, 53 State Street, Boston, Mass. is settling an estate and he claims to have an original Order of the Cincinnati with two certificates. This Order originally belonged to a well known Revolutionary officer of Boston, whose name I have completely forgotten. He has already been offered \$300.00 for it and he presumably will sell it for that or any offer above it. If you know of anyone who might want this order you had better get in touch with Mr. Borhek at once as the decoration is liable to be sold any time. Let me know if you do anything about it, as I may write to someone else.

Very truly yours,

HW:JG

Curator

Dear Howland

B.F.Borhek, 53 State S^t., Boston says he has been offered \$300 for that Cincinnati medal and two certificates which go with it. It had not been sold yesterday. He says he has an auction record of (within three years) \$1250.

I told him he wouldn't get that today I thought, and felt \$300 would be a pretty fair price if he could get it. The diary probably will go to a member of the family. Which suits me.

G.R.M.

WAR DEPARTMENT
ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY
7TH AND B STREETS SW.
WASHINGTON

December 12, 1934.

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th and 156th Sts.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Thank you very much for your note of the 10th telling me of the Eagle of the Cincinnati for sale by Mr. B.F. Borhek of Boston. He wrote to me offering the Eagle and two original Diplomas for \$1300.00, which I think is an excessive price, particularly in times like these, and in any event I could not avail myself of the offer. I understand he made a similar offer to many other members of the Cincinnati. We have a member who is interested in having the Order purchased for the collection of the Virginia Cincinnati, and I believe would offer say \$350. I will get in touch with him at once and let you hear from me further.

Thank you so much for your trouble in letting me know of this item.

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Major, U. S. A.

MEDICAL FIELD SERVICE SCHOOL
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PA.

September 10, 1937

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
American Numismatic Society,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Wood:

The late Mr. Edmund H. Bell of Easton, Maryland, had in his possession a number of insignia of various societies and also the Civil War badge that was issued by the War Department to him in right of his father who was killed at the Battle of Stones River.

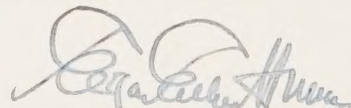
Mr. Bell's widow has sent me all of these badges for return to the respective societies and though I explained to her that this Civil War badge could not be worn by anyone and should be regarded as a family heirloom she writes me back that there is no heir to Mr. Bell's membership and that she would be willing for me to do what I suggested, namely, to present it in the name of Mr. Bell to the Numismatic Society.

Would you please let me know if you want this medal. You doubtless have many copies already and if you do not care to keep this one in the collection I will present it to some other museum.

I am enclosing a circular about a book recently published in Europe which I thought would be interesting to the Librarian.

With cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Lieut. Colonel, Medical Corps.

Sept. 15, 1937

Lt.Col.Edgar Erskine Hume,
Medical Field Service School,
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Dear Lieutenant Home:

Your letter of September 10th was on my desk on my return this morning. We would be very glad to have the Civil War badge which you mention, belonging to Mr. Edmund H. Bell and if the other badges and medals do not have to go back to the respective societies, we would like those too, as it is always more interesting to be able to have a series of medals belonging to the same person.

I am turning over to Mr. Noe the pamphlet concerning the book on the Croix de Guerre. Many thanks for sending this on.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks

MEDICAL FIELD SERVICE SCHOOL
CARLISLE BARRACKS, PA.

September 21, 1937

Mr. Howland Wood, Curator,
The American Numismatic Society,
Broadway between 155th & 156th Sts.,
New York City.

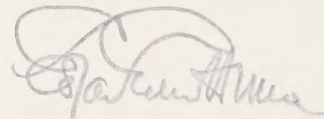
Dear Mr. Wood:

I enclose herewith the Civil war badge mentioned in my recent letter and which was issued in the name of Captain Jacob Bowman Bell. He was killed at the Battle of Stones River or Murfreesboro. The badge was issued to his only son, Mr. Edmund Hays Bell, who died last spring and whose widow has given me this badge for what I consider proper disposition. I give you the above information as the badge is, of course, numbered and you might like to know to whom it was issued.

The other badges that I mentioned in my previous letter I am holding until Mrs. Bell decides as to their disposition. Some of them, I believe, will have to be returned to their respective societies.

With cordial regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Erskine Hume,
Lieut. Colonel, Medical Corps.

Sept. 22, 1937

Lieut.Colonel Edgar Erskine Hume,
Medical Field Service School
Carlisle Barracks, Pa.

Dear Mr. Hume:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of the Civil War badge issued in the name of Captain Jacob Bowman Bell. I am glad to get this as I did not know before that these were issued posthumously.

Very truly yours,

Curator

HW ks